Return of medals by ex-servicemen and officers

†2183. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that retired soldiers and officers have returned their medals during last few years;

(b) if so, the number of medals returned by them;

(c) the reasons for returning these medals;

(d) whether Government has made any efforts to arrive on a consensus to solve those issues; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Nine cardboard boxes full of medals have been received.

(c) In protest against non-acceptance of their demands of 'One Rank, One Pension'.

(d) and (e) Although the 'One Rank One Pension' demand has not been accepted, keeping in view the spirit of the matter, the Committee constituted has recommended substantial improvement in pension of pre 01.01.2006 PBOR pensioners and bring pre 10.10.1997 pensioners on par with post 10.10.1997 pensioners.

Commanders' Conference

2184. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether continuing Chinese military build up and its repercussion on Indo-China border were discussed during top Indian leaders at Commanders' Conference in October, 2009;

(b) if so, whether Armed Forces also discussed rapid pace of infrastructure development on Chinese side of border;

(c) whether this Conference was also attended by PM, Defence Minister, National Security Adviser;

(d) if so, the outcome of the discussions held and decisions taken; and

(e) whether in the Conference India's border in Ladakh, Arunachal sector in the wake of Chinese belligerence and delay in armament acquisition for Indian army, were main topics discussed?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) The Combined Commanders' Conference of the three services was held on 20th October, 2009. The Prime Minister, Defence Minister and National Security Adviser attended the Conference. Many important issues were discussed in the meeting. In view of the sensitiveness of the matter, the details cannot be disclosed on the floor of the House.

Protection of Indian fishermen and their boats by Coast Guard

2185. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian fishermen are harassed and Indian fishing boats are being seized by foreign navies frequently;

(b) if so, the number of fishing boats seized and fishermen put in prisons by foreign navies during the last one year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Indian Coast Guard has not accorded due protection to Indian fishermen and their boats in Indian waters; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve Coast Guard activity to check seizure of Indian boats and fishermen by foreign navies along Indian coasts?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Indian fishermen are generally apprehended by foreign navies when they have been engaged in fishing inside their territorial waters. As per records in Navy, 35 Indian fishing boats with 200 fishermen have been apprehended by Pakistani Navy and 31 fishing boats with 123 fishermen have been apprehended by Sri Lankan Navy this year. Indian Coast Guard aircrafts and ships carry regular patrols to prevent Indian fishing boats crossing the International Maritime Boundary Lines (IMBL) and also conduct 'Community Interaction Programme' to inform the fishermen on the perils of cross border fishing.

Modernization/technical upgradation of ordnance factories

2186. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of modernization/technological upgradation programme of defence ordnance factories during the next five years; and

(b) the factory-wise capital investment envisaged for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Modernization and capacity augmentation of production facilities in OFB are taken up based on the long-term requirements of weapons, ammunitions armoured vehicles etc. of armed forces and para military forces, as well as to absorb new technologies. The details of the modernization plan for the next five years are given in Statement.